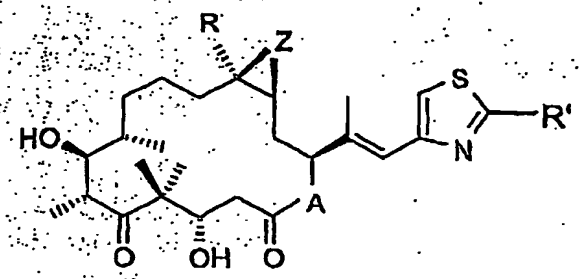
What is claimed

1. Use of an epothilone of formula I



(I)

wherein A represents O or NR_N, wherein R_N is hydrogen or lower alkyl, R is hydrogen or lower alkyl, R' is methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino or methylthio, and Z is O or a bond,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for treating a warm blooded animal having myeloma.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein the warm-blooded animal is a human.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the myeloma is resistant to conventional cytotoxic chemotherapy.

4. The use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein overexpression of the multi-drug resistance protein p170 is observed.

5. The use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the myeloma is resistant to a taxane, e.g., paclitaxel.

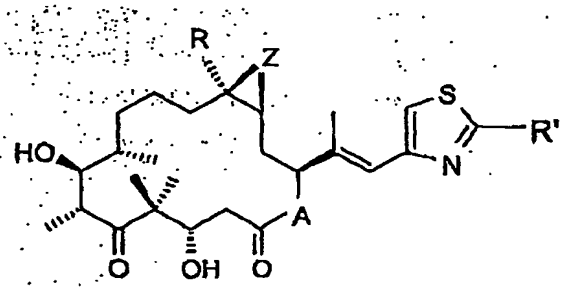
6. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the disease is multiple myeloma.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the compound of formula I is epothilone B.

8. The use according to claim 7 comprising administering epothilone B weekly in a dose that is between about 0.1 to 6 mg/m^2 for three weeks after an interval of one to six weeks after the preceding treatment.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein A is O; R is methyl; R' is methylthio; and Z is O.

10. A combination comprising (a) an epothilone of formula I



(I)

wherein A represents O or NR_N, wherein R_N is hydrogen or lower alkyl; R is hydrogen or lower alkyl; R' is methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino or methylthio, and Z is O or a bond, and (b) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alkylating agents, corticosteroids and anthracyclines, in which the active ingredients (a) and (b) are present in each case in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of myeloma.

11. Combination according to claim 10 wherein the epothilone is epothilone B.

12. Combination according to claim 10 wherein A is O; R is methyl; R' is methylthio; and Z is O.

13. Combination according to any one of claims 10 to 12 for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of multiple myeloma.

14. Use of a combination according to any one of claims 10 to 12 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of myeloma.

15. The use of a combination according to claim 10 in an amount which is jointly therapeutically effective against myeloma to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a quantity, which is jointly therapeutically effective against myeloma, of a combination according to claim 10 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. A commercial package comprising a combination as defined in claim 10, together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of myeloma.